

DISEASE SEVERITY: MORTALITY/ INCIDENCE RATIO

The mortality to-incidence (M/I) ratio or the case fatality ratio provides a measure of disease severity. In general, the closer a M/I value is to 1.0 the worse is the expected outcome. An M/I value over 1.0 represents the poorest prognosis. This means that more people die from a particular type of cancer than were diagnosed in the same year.

The overall M/I ratio for 2003 in South Dakota was 0.43 for all cancer sites. Cancers of the liver and intrahepatic bile duct, pancreas and esophagus and were the worse with >1.0 M/I ratios. Fortunately, the more common cancers by gender such as prostate for males and breast for females had low M/I ratios of 0.16 and 0.23 respectively. This is also indicative of the availability of screening tests for early detection of these two cancers. On the other hand, male breast cancers had a high M/I ratio of 0.6 in South Dakota in 2003.

Table 1: Mortality/Incidence ratio for selected sites,
South Dakota 2003

	Incidence	Death	M/I ratio
All sites	3,814	1,636	0.43
Prostate	677	107	0.16
Breast females	537	121	0.23
Lung and Bronchus	496	405	0.82
Colon and Rectum	456	179	0.39
Bladder	200	40	0.20
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	160	67	0.42
Corpus & uterus, NOS	114	21	0.18
Melanoma-Skin	111	33	0.30
Kidney & renal pelvis	98	39	0.40
Leukemia	94	79	0.84
Pancreas	90	94	1.04
Oral cavity & pharynx	76	19	0.25
Thyroid	62	6	0.10
Brain & ONS	58	51	0.88
Ovary	57	46	0.81
Myeloma	55	41	0.75
Stomach	45	23	0.51
Esophagus	37	41	1.11
Liver & IBD	25	30	1.20
Hodgkin Lymphoma	19	8	0.42
Cervix uteri	16	9	0.56

Note: ONS- Other nervous systems

IBD – Intrahepatic bile duct

NOS-Not otherwise specified.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health